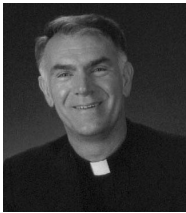




Light of the World News

September, 2011

Bringing the Light of Christ into the world through a comprehensive Parish Evangelization Process



My dear brothers and sisters,

In Luke's gospel, Jesus tells us "Whoever puts his hand to the plow and keeps looking back is not fit for the Kingdom of God."

That reminds me of the first time I planted corn on the farm, growing up. I was probably in 5th grade, and my Dad was exhausted, so he suggested I run the tractor with the corn planter while he took a short nap. My first time - I was so excited! So off I went, but for a 5th grader there's lots to look at and be interested in, even in the middle of an open field. So I didn't keep my eyes straight ahead on the line the planter marker had left in the dirt. Instead, I looked at everything but that line. Fortunately, my Dad took a short nap, but when that corn came up, a couple weeks later, you can imagine the sight! The corn rows wandered all over everywhere! That of course is part of Hermes family legend.

I share it with you because it's a modern application of Jesus' words to us - once you put your hand to the plow, don't look back! What would that "looking back" mean to our life in Christ? It could mean simply not concentrating on God's will for us as we make important decisions in our life, consulting others' ideas, or our own wishes, but not what Our God wants for us. It could mean looking back wistfully at past spiritual "highs" - maybe our first LOTW retreat or some other important religious moment in our life - and not making time every day for a deep, personal, real conversation with Our Lord in prayer. It could mean living on the surface of our life rather than putting forth the effort needed every day to live out our call to discipleship, to loving our neighbor and our God with our heart and soul.

What's the area of your life where you're tempted to "keep looking back," away from God's daily presence in your life, and His daily Call to follow Him? The more clearly we can identify those areas, the better we can plan ways to keep our eyes and our hearts focused on Him. If we don't, I can tell you from experience; those corn rows will be mighty crooked!

Sincerely, in our faithful God,

Msgr. Dan Hermes

Where are we headed?

While this question could be answered philosophically, we will refrain from doing so and just let you know where LOTWEM is physically going this semester. First, we are headed east and west. Then, we are headed south.

On September 29, we will be going a bit west, to Freeport, Illinois, to give an information session for St. Mary and St. Joseph Parishes. Then we go a bit further west over the weekend to hold the second retreat at St. Columbkille parish in Dubuque Iowa. This retreat will also be attended by representatives of a couple of other Dubuque Archdiocese parishes. Next, we out to the East Coast to hold an information session on October 8 at St. Mary's, Barnegat and St. Mary of the Pines, Manahawkin, New Jersey. This Information session will also be attended by representatives of other parishes and of the Archdiocese of Trenton. The following weekend brings with it geographical whiplash and a trip out to the west coast to hold an Initial Retreat at St. Finbar Parish in Burbank. After a week break, we are headed south for an information session at St. Columba Parish in Dothan, Alabama. Meanwhile, there will be retreats held across the United States throughout this semester (a list of these can be found on the next page).

Second Semester Retreats for 2011

- 07/22/11 Parish of Lower North Shore, AUS
- 08/19/11 Corpus Christi Parish, St. Ives, AUS
- 09/30/11 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Crystal Lake, IL
- 10/01/11 St. Columbkille, Dubuque, IA
- 10/07/11 Mother Teresa, Topeka, KS
- 10/07/11 St. Patrick, Wadsworth, IL
- 10/07/11 St. Patrick, St. Francis, St. Patrick, Osage City, KS
- 10/08/11 St. Patrick Parish, Yorkville, IL
- 10/15/11 St. Finbar, Burbank, CA
- 10/21/11 Catholic Parish of Pittwater, AUS
- 10/28/11 Mater Dei, Topeka, KS
- 11/04/11 Our Lady of Gaudalupe, Topeka, KS
- 11/05/11 Holy Cross, Batavia, IL
- 11/11/11 St. Matthew, Topeka, KS
- 11/11/11 St. Patrick, Kansas City, KS
- 11/11/11 St. Thomas the Apostle, Crystal Lake, IL
- 11/18/11 St. Joseph, St. Joseph, St. Ann, Apple River, IL

LOTWEM Australia reaches a milestone

This July, an entirely Australian Retreat Team began the LOTW Process at a new parish, the Catholic Parish of North Shore in Naremburn. A month later, they started another parish, Corpus Christi Parish, in St. Ives. The success in Australia is due in great part to tireless efforts of Clive & Flavia Pereira, Kathy Gray, Sue Berg, Eric & Eileen Ott, and many others. Via Skype, we are working with LOTWEM Australia leaders to further develop and spread the LOTW Process across the Diocese of Broken Bay, New South Wales.



We Need Prayer Warriors for our Apostolate!

You are invited to unite as a "Light of the World family" to offer a spiritual bouquets for LOTWEM in the form of an offering of prayers, sacrifices, and devotional acts that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, will bring blessings and lasting fruits.

There are many ways you can spiritually give to bless LOTWEM and prepare hearts to say "Yes" to a deeper relationship with our Lord including: daily Holy Communion, prayers, time in Adoration, rosaries, fasting, and good deeds (including simple deeds done with great love in the "duty of the moment").

Please identify what you would like offer on behalf of LOTWEM and the frequency of offering and communicate this gift to Kathy Breuss at breussfamily@yahoo.com or call 815-370-5009.

May our Lord bless your "sacrifices," bearing many fruits for the LOTWEM ministry and family!



From the Directors: Mike & Lori Pacer

Starting in October, we hope to begin regular updates to our website. We will start small, but hope to increase over the next six months. We have been investigating Small Faith Community study materials and will initiate a special section for these resources on our website beginning in October. We also hope to have many more pictures and stories. But, much of this will depend on your submitting materials to be posted (including "reviews" of good SFC resources).

LOTWEM is funded solely by donations from individuals and parishes. Last year, with our Board of Directors, we prayerfully discerned the amount needed to operate the Ministry as we believe God would have us. We then began a concerted effort to find individuals who would become "Ministry Partners" and commit to regular support of LOTWEM. We contact individuals personally and ask if we can visit with them, share our story and vision, and ask them to prayerfully discern if they are called to support LOTWEM. This is a laborious task, but what an awesome blessing it is for us to meet and learn from so many beautiful brothers and sisters! Maybe someone will suggest that we contact you in the future. But, you don't have to wait for that to happen. If you think that making Jesus the Lord of your life might involve including LOTWEM as part of your personal plan of charitable giving, please contact one of us by email (listed below). . . And, *please pray for us!*

Your servants in Christ,

Mike & Lori

For information regarding Light of the World Evangelization Ministries, please visit our website:

lotwem.org or contact Mike Pacer mpacer@lotwem.org or Lori Pacer lpacer@lotwem.org.

LOTWEM General Newsletters are published tri-annually.